

CHAPTER NO. 176

SENATE BILL NO. 647

By Springer, Rochelle

Substituted for: House Bill No. 575

By McDonald, Sands

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 7, Part 5 relative to public records.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-504, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection thereto:

(1) The following records or information of any state, county, municipal or other public employee in the possession of a governmental entity in its capacity as an employer shall be treated as confidential and shall not be open for inspection by members of the public: unpublished telephone numbers; bank account information; social security number; driver license information except where driving or operating a vehicle is part of the employee's job description or job duties or incidental to the performance of their job; and the same information of immediate family members or household members.

(2) Information made confidential by this subsection shall be redacted wherever possible and nothing in this subsection shall be used to limit or deny access to otherwise public information because a file, a document, or data file contains confidential information.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit access to these records by law enforcement agencies, courts, or other governmental agencies performing official functions.

(4) Nothing in this act shall be construed to close any personnel records of public officers which are currently open under state law.

SECTION 2. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit access to information made confidential under this act, when the employee expressly authorizes the release of such information.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED: May 3, 1999

APPROVED this day of 1999

DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR

Pursuant to Article III, Section 18, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, the Governor had Senate Bill No. 647 in his possession longer than ten (10) days, so therefore the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.